

Entry Systems Technology Research and Development (ESTRAD)
NNA14503443R
Questions and Answers – SET 1
September 9, 2014

- Q.1 **Paragraph I.5 (d), page 35.** The last sentence, in part states, “ *provided*, that the Contractor shall not be required to make any deliveries under this contract after ONE YEAR FROM THE END DATE OF THE CONTRACT.”

Could the Government provide a list of tasks and their scheduled completion dates for those tasks expected to be completed after the end date of the current STRAD Contract?

A.1 Any task orders expected to be transferred to ESTRAD will be provided during the Phase-in/Phase-out period.

- Q.2 **Paragraph L.7 (a), page 52.** The accompanying chart in this paragraph shows the Oral Presentation limited to 60 slides. Are slides used to introduce the Presenters counted as part of the 60 slides?

A.2 The introduction of the presenters will not count against the time limit for presentation; see section L.8 INSTRUCTIONS FOR MISSION SUITABILITY ORAL PRESENTATIONS (c).

- Q.3 **Paragraph L.7 (a), page 52.** Footnote 2 pertaining to 20 Slides of Volume II Past Performance Proposal in the Chart makes reference to “the chart entitled PRIME AND MAJOR SUBCONTRACTS provided on page 58.” There is no such chart on page 58.

A.3 The reference chart entitled “PRIME AND MAJOR SUBCONTRACTOR CONTRACTS” is located on page 61; the final RFP will reflect the change.

- Q.4 **RFP Section L.8 (c), page 53.** Section L.8 (c) states “The Offeror shall have the proposed Program Manager and up to 3 of the Offeror’s Key Personnel present the oral presentation (limit four (4) presenters). Additional attendees beyond the presenters are not allowed.”

Please consider increasing the limit to five presenters to ensure correct SME are available to speak to all aspects of the subject matter.

A.4 The Government has reviewed your request and has decided to keep the Requirements of the Draft RFP.

- Q.5 **RFP Section L.9 (b), page 59.** Throughout RFP Section L, there are numerous requirements levied upon subcontractors with a total subcontract value of \$1,000,000 or more for the five year inclusive effort (e.g., past performance information, past performance questionnaires, complete cost proposals). In most areas of Section L, subcontractors with a subcontract value of \$1M or more for the 5-year period of performance are identified as “major” subcontractors.

Given that this amounts to \$200,000 per year, this increases the probability that all subcontractor participation will meet the very low threshold for major subcontractors of \$1M for the five year inclusive effort. This will increase proposal complexity and require a much greater proposal evaluation effort by the Government. We respectfully request that the threshold for subcontractors be modified from \$1M for the five year effort to \$1M per year (i.e., \$5M total).

A.5 The Government has reviewed your request and has decided to keep the Requirements of the Draft RFP.

- Q.6 **Paragraph L.9 (“A”), page 58.** The Technical Approach (Subfactor) is labeled A. Should it be labeled B, since the Management Approach (Subfactor) is labeled A?

A.6 Technical Approach (Subfactor) should be labeled B; the final RFP will reflect the change.

- Q.7 **Paragraph L.9 (“A”) 1, Page 59.** The sentence on the top of page 59 states, “The offeror’s proposal shall demonstrate its understanding of the requirements of Section 5.1 and 5.6 of the SOW as well as their interrelationships.” Does the Government intend for the offeror to limit its Oral Presentation and technical understanding to these two sections or is the offeror to address Sections 5.1 thru 5.6 of the SOW?
- A.7 The Offeror shall address Sections 5.1 through 5.6; the final RFP will reflect the change.
- Q.8 **Paragraph L.9 (b), Page 59.** Twenty (20) slides are allocated for Past Performance Proposal in Paragraph L.7, page 53. However, there are no specific oral presentation instructions, similar to directions provided for the Mission Suitability Volume. Does the Government intend to present further guidance for the oral Past Performance presentation?
- A.8 Section L.8 will provide further guidance for the oral Past Performance presentation; the final RFP will reflect the change.
- Q.9 **Paragraph L.9 (b) A.2, page 61.** The chart accompanying this paragraph (PRIME AND MAJOR SUBCONTRACTOR CONTRACTS) had a NOTE: This chart will not count against the allocated page count. There is no page count for this part of the Past Performance Volume. The chart on page 52/53 of the DRFP calls out 20 slides. Will the Government consider allocating no more than three slides per each reference not to exceed a total of 20 slides?
- A.9 The Government has reviewed your request and has decided to keep the Requirements of the Draft RFP.
- Q.10 **Paragraph L.9 (c) 8, page 69.** Table 1 included with this paragraph identifies Small Business Subcontracting Goals in the last row entry. Since ESTRAD is a Small Business Set-Aside, should this entry be eliminated?
- A.10 Table 1 states: “*Small business and small disadvantaged business subcontracting goals both in dollars and percentage of the value of the action (including all options if any)-* ***If ‘none’ fill out box as ‘N/A’***”
- Q.11 **Paragraph M.2 (c), page 74.** The sentence at the top of page 74 states, “The Offerors will be evaluated and scored based on the Mission Suitability subfactors set forth below.” Paragraph M.3 (c), page 80 states, “The numerical weights assigned to the Mission Suitability subfactors are indicative of the relative importance of those evaluation areas.” Would the Government consider providing Offerers Mission Suitability separate weights for the Oral Presentation and the Written Proposal?
- A.11 As stated in the Draft RFP under M.3, “(a) The essential objective of this procurement process is to identify and select the contractor able to successfully meet the Government’s needs in the manner most advantageous to the Government, all factors considered.” and “The overall Mission Suitability Factor will only receive a numerical score.”
- Q.12 **Paragraph M.2 (c) B.1, page 77.** The Government makes reference to only Sections 5.1 and 5.6 of the SOW. Should this read Sections 5.1 through 5.6?
- A.12 See response to Q.7.
- Q.13 **Paragraph M.2 (c) B.1 Sample Task, page 77 and Section J.1 (b) 9, SAMPLE TASK Attachment.** The sample task of sending a probe to a comet, collecting a sample from the surface, and returning the sample to earth is quite similar to the NASA GSFC OSIRIS-Rex sample return mission, which involved Entry, Decent, Landing (EDL) collaboration from NASA ARC and three other NASA Field Center. This proposal was submitted and approved by NASA approximately two years ago. In essence, this work which was accomplished in part by the incumbent STRAD Contractor gives the incumbent a significant advantage in responding to this particular sample task. Please consider using a Sample Task which is less advantageous to the incumbent contractor.
- A.13 The Offeror awarded this contract needs to be able to respond and perform similar task orders that will be issued under this contract.

Q.14 **Paragraph M.2 (d), page 77.** The Past Performance factor entails presenting past performance references in an allocated 20 slides format. No specific Government evaluation regarding this slide format presentation is addressed. Are Offerors to use their own format for this portion of the Past Performance factor evaluation? Recommend Government provide additional guidance to Offerors to better respond to the Past Performance Factor (Volume II).

A.14 See response to Q.8.

Q.15 **Paragraph M.3 (c), page 80.** The assigned weight for the Management Approach Subfactor is 100 points less than the Technical Approach yet appears to include and require significant more material and information as part of this proposal. This weighting can also provide a significant advantage to the incumbent contractor given incumbent knowledge of the technical approach and technical concerns of the Code TS customer. Please consider increasing the weight of the Management Approach Subfactor to at least 550 points, and decreasing the weight of the Technical Approach Subfactor to 450 points to decrease the advantage of the Incumbent contractor. Most Offerors will propose a large incumbent capture thereby retaining the technical and corporate memory invested. Additionally, this will more accurately give credit to the volume of information required in the Management Subfactor.

A.15 The Government has reviewed your request and has decided to keep the Requirements of the Draft RFP.

Q.16 **DSOW Paragraph 5.1.5, page 4.** Are IT Support Services provided in support of non-ACITS IT systems that the Offeror is responsible for currently accredited? Who is responsible for maintaining non-ACITS system accreditation at NASA ARC?

A.16 See Section G of the solicitation.

Q.17 **Paragraph H.8 (c) 4, page 23.** The last sentence in this paragraph is repetitive and should be deleted.

A.17 The last sentence in Paragraph H.8 (c) 4 will be deleted; the final RFP will reflect the change.

Q.18 **Paragraph I.7 (e), page 36.** In paragraph (a) of this clause, the Government refers to paragraph (e) of this clause as the Government Property List which is furnished to the Contractor in an "as is, where is" condition. There is no entry for Government Property in paragraph (e).

A.18 Attached J.1 (a) 3, Equipment List will be properly identified; the final RFP will reflect the change.

Q.19 **Section J, Attachment 1, DSOW, page 1.** The Introduction states the Entry Systems and Technology Division Branches supported by this contract include TSA, TSM, and TSS. This restriction excludes the fourth branch, TSF. Does it also exclude any support for the division, TS, as well as other ARC entities currently receiving such support under the existing STRAD Contract?

A.19 Please refer to the revised Section 1.0 of the final SOW.

Q.20 **RFP Section F.2, page 8.** Paragraph (a) states (emphasis added), "The performance period of the Base Period shall be for twelve (24) months from the effective date of the contract. The 30 day Phase-in Period shall be included in the Base Period.

Please clarify the start of Phase-In. For example, if the contract is awarded on 1/15/15 with an effective date of 2/01/15, when will Phase-In begin?

Also, please note the discrepancy above where it states twelve in writing but (24) numerically; the base period appears to be 24 months.

A.20 Phase-In shall begin on the effective date of the contract; using your example, Phase-In would start 2/1/15. Twelve (24) should read as Twenty-four (24) for the base period; the final RFP will reflect the change.

Q.21 **RFP Section F.2, page 8.** Paragraph (a) states, in part, "The performance of the base period shall be for twelve (24) months from the effective date of the contract."

For pricing purposes, what effective date shall Offerors use in their proposal?

A.21 See response to Q.20.

Q.22 **RFP Section I.10, page 37 and Attachment J.1 (a) 8, DD254.** The only item indicated on the DD254 is "HAVE ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION ONLY AT ANOTHER CONTRACTOR'S FACILITY OR A GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY." RFP Section I.10 indicates "Performance under this contract will involve access to and/or generation of classified information, work in a security area, or both, up to the level of SECRET." Please clarify.

A.22 The DD 254 was provided as a sample. A blank form will be part of the final; the final RFP will reflect the change.

Q.23 **Reference Section L.6(4) (page 51),** "Each volume shall contain a *more detailed* table of contents to delineate the subparagraphs within that volume." (emphasis added)

Question: A master table of contents is not requested, but the above language suggests one is intended. Does the Government want a master table of contents?

A.23 Section L.6 (4) will be revised, please refer to the final RFP.

Q.24 **Reference: Section L.7, Proposal Page Limitations (page 53).** Within the provided table, the page limit for Volume II, Past Performance Proposal, is listed as "20 slides." And Reference: Section L.8(g) (page 54). "the oral presentation of the Management Approach, Technical Approach, *and Past Performance* will..." (emphasis added) and Reference: Section L.9(b), Past Performance Factor (Volume II) (page 59). **Question:** Is Past Performance to be submitted as a separate written volume, as the directions in Section L.9(b) suggest, or submitted as slides and included as part of the Oral Presentation, as suggested by Sections L.7 and L.8(g)?

A.24 Past Performance (Volume II) requires both oral and written sections. L.7 table will be revised to include the Oral and Written requirements; the final RFP will reflect the change.

Q.25 **Reference: L.7(c), Proposal Page Limitations, and L.8, Instructions for Mission Suitability Oral Presentations (page 53).** **Question:** Among the items omitted from page count are title pages, tables of contents, cross-reference matrices, tabs, etc. Please clarify that slides with similar content will be excluded from the slide limit.

A.25 Slides with similar content will be excluded from the slide limit, the final RFP will reflect the change.

Q.26 **Reference: L.8(h) and L.8(k), Oral Presentation clarification questions (page 54).**

Question: In both paragraphs referenced above, the words "proposal clarification" are used. Please confirm that clarification questions will be limited to the material presented during the oral presentation, versus including questions also related to the written proposal presented/submitted.

A. 26 If the Government asked for clarification, the exchange will be limited. The Government will not ask any discussion questions during the oral presentation.

Q.27 **Reference: L.8(k), Oral Presentation clarification (page 54).** **Question:** After a clarification question is asked to offerors' Key Personnel, will the Key Personnel team be permitted to caucus before answering?

A.27 See response to Q.26.

Q.28 **Reference: Section L.9(b), Past Performance (page 59).** The DRFP states, “A list of not more than three (3) relevant contracts (government and/or industry contracts), each in excess of \$1,000,000 total contract value, **received in the past five (5) years, or currently on-going...**” (emphasis added) **Question:** A strict reading of this sentence would eliminate as a possible reference a contract that was active within the past five (5) years, but was awarded prior to that time and is now complete. Is it the Government’s intent to allow the use of only those contracts either awarded (i.e., received) in the last five (5) years or currently on-going?

A.28 Section L.9(b), Past Performance will be revised, please refer to the final RFP.

Q.29 **Reference: L.9(b)(1), Past Performance (page 59).** The last sentence of this paragraph, “For each contract submitting a Past Performance Questionnaire, the Offeror shall complete the following table to show the relevance of each contract to this requirement.” **Question:** Is the Government referencing the table shown on page 61, or is there another required table?

A.29 The table being referenced is on page 61, entitled “PRIME AND MAJOR SUBCONTRACTOR CONTRACTS”.

Q.30 **Reference: L.9.b (B) Past Performance Questionnaires (Section L, pages 61-62).** **Question:** The last sentence of this paragraph, “For each contract submitting a Past Performance Questionnaire, the Offeror shall complete the following table to show the relevance of each contract to this requirement.” Is the Government referencing the table shown on page 61, or is there another required table?

A.30 See response to Q.29

Q.31 Draft Request for Proposal (DRFP), Section L.9 Proposal Preparation - Specific Instructions, Section A. Technical Approach (Subfactor), Section 1. Technical Understanding - Oral Presentation (printed page 59) states “The Offeror’s proposal shall demonstrate its understanding of the requirements of Sections 5.1 and 5.6 of the SOW as well as their interrelationships.” **Question:** Please clarify whether the Offeror should respond to only SOW elements 5.1 and 5.6 in the oral presentation or to all SOW elements 5.1 through 5.6.

A.31 See response to Q.7.

Q.32 Section L.9 Proposal Preparation-Specific Instructions, Section A-Management Approach, Subsection 5 Total Compensation Plan-Written Proposal (printed page 57) states “The Offeror shall provide a Total Compensation Plan (TCP) for all personnel proposed, in accordance with NFS provision 1852.231-71, Determination of Compensation Reasonableness, and FAR provision 52.222-46, Evaluation of Compensation for Professional Employees.” **Question:** Will the government consider providing Offerors with average incumbent direct labor rates by labor category to provide consistency across offers and reduce the need for cost adjustments?

A.32 The Government cannot provide incumbent direct labor rates.

Q.33 Section L.9. Proposal Preparation-Specific Instructions, Section A-Technical Approach, Subfactor 2-Sample Task A-Written Proposal (printed page 59) states “A staffing plan for the full SRV development effort through launch, which addresses the complexity of the task and accommodates the requirement that the Project Manager Lead Systems Engineer and Lead SMA engineer are roles that will be filled by civil servants. Indicate the level of skill/experience required for each staff position identified and indicate the phase(s) of the mission where each position is required, for all phases A through E (NPR 7120.5E).” **Question:** Is this staffing plan required through launch (approximately the end Phase D), or through Phase E (end of mission operations)?

A.33 Section L.9, Sample Task and Attached J.1 (b) 9 will be revised, please refer to final RFP.

Q.34 Section H.16 Incorporation of the Contractor's Proposal (printed page 29) states "The Contractor's Mission Suitability and Cost proposals, including revision(s), submitted in response to the solicitation entitled "Entry Systems Technology Research and Development (ESTRAD)" are hereby incorporated into the contract by reference."
Question: Does the inclusion of the contractor's proposal by reference to the contract make a contractor's proposal subject to FOIA?

A.34 Interested parties can request information on a contract through the FOIA office.

Q.35 Section L6. Proposal Preparation- General Instructions (printed page 51) states "(2) Include a cover letter with the proposal, attaching the completed representations, certifications and acknowledgments. The cover letter must be signed by an official authorized to contractually bind your company. As part of that letter, please provide the following information:

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- A completed response to Section L.1, NFS 1852.245-80, "Government Property Management Information." This Plan will not be part of the evaluation for award. The Plan will be reviewed and approved by the Contracting Officer and finalized prior to the end of the Phase-In period."

Question: Section L.1 does not contain a reference to 182.245-80 as indicated. Will the government please clarify this requirement?

A.35 Clause 1852.245-80 will be added to Section L.1 incorporated by reference; the final RFP will reflect the change.

Q.36 Section L.7 Proposal Page Limitations (printed page 52) states a Slide/Page Limit of 25 Pages for Safety and Health Plan under Written Subfactors. **Question:** Will the government consider eliminating the page count requirement to provide adequate space to define a comprehensive plan that meets all of the requirements listed in the DRFP SOW?

A.36 The Government has reviewed your request and has decided to keep the Requirements of the Draft RFP.

Q.37 What is NASA Ames' interest in integrating a costing functionality for the task management system for ESTRAD (i.e. integration of government SAP system with contractor electronic workflow system)?

A.37 If this is a proposed approach to the solicitation; the Offeror shall address in its proposal.

Q.38 How is the firewall between the Proposal Development and Evaluation?

A.38 If the Offeror has any potential OCI, the Offeror shall address in its submitted OCI plan, see Section L.9, 6.

Q.39 Do you have issues with firewall between Contractor and civil servants? Is the OCI clause addressing this? Do you have waivers?

A.39 See response to Q.38.

Q.40 With regard to technology advancement in the competitive environment, such as the recent Discovery AO that specifically calls out HEEET as a technology option for proposers, how does Ames handle OCI related to equal access to that Ames technology, while still potentially participating on a competing team?

A.40 The HEEET team is firewalled from all proposals. All proposals wanting to make use of HEEET are availed resources from the HEEET team equally (TPS sizing etc).

Q.41 As a follow-up, does Ames Civil Servant or Contractor workforce historically support the NASA evaluation side of the review, called TMCO (Technical, Management, Cost) which is led by NASA Science Office of Mission Assessments?

A.41 ESTRAD will not require contractor support in the review of TMCO. If in the future the Government requires support by ESTRAD, a task order will be issued.

Q.42 Can you further explain what situation would lead to a conflict such that the DRFP content that follows would need to be exercised? (reference Section H.2, printed pp. 18) "In the event of a conflict between the requirements of the task order and the Contractor's approved task plan, the task order shall prevail."

A.42 See H.2 TASK ORDERING PROCEDURE (NFS 1852.216-80) (OCT 1996), it addresses the task order procedures once the contract is awarded.

Q.43 How much do you expect the contractor workforce to help set vision/direction for advancement of entry system materials and tools and be part of coming up with innovative ideas? Can individuals within the Division influence the vision?

A.43 The contract will support requirements through issued task orders which will not include any inherently Government functions.

Q.44 How important is it for Ames to collaborate with other centers? What do you see as the most promising collaboration areas?

A.44 Ames actively collaborates with NASA HQs, other Centers, other Government agencies and non-Government agencies.

Q.45 What does the division see as the most promising areas for collaboration discipline wise?

A.45 If this is a proposed approach to the solicitation; the Offeror shall address in its proposal.

Q.46 Internship opportunities are severely reduced in current ESTRAD requirement. Was the change intentional and does this indicate some shift in importance of internships on ESTRAD?

Q.46 The government does not dictate how a task order is staffed.

Q.47 Do you have a centralized system for internship?

Q.47 Please refer to the website <https://intern.nasa.gov/ossi/web/public/main/>

Q.48 Do you use the Acquisition Planning Tool site as a data library? Is FOIA the only electronic reading room?

A.48 The Acquisition Planning Tool site is not used as a data library. FOIA is the only electronic reading room.

Q.49 How are things going with the STRAD contract? Are you planning to take a new direction with ESTRAD?

A.49 The Government cannot comment on a contractor's performance.

Q.50 How is the percentage of work going to be split between the divisions? Level of effort?

A.50 Task orders will be issued to support the requirement and will be performance based.

Q.51 Some words in the scope of work are open ended. Words like "Qualified": How do we know what is defined as qualified?

A.51 The Offeror is required to ensure task orders are staffed to meet the requirements.

Q.52 DRFP Section L.9 (b) (1), page 59. This paragraph states, "A list of not more than three (3) relevant contracts (government and/or industry contracts), each in excess of \$1,000,000 total contract value, received in the past five (5) years, or currently on-going, involving types of related efforts." Please clarify if this requirement pertains to up to three total team Past Performance references, or if each team member [Prime and Major Subcontractor(s)] can submit up to three relevant Past Performance references each.

A.52 The Prime and Major Subcontractor(s) can provide up to (3) relevant contracts each; the final RFP will reflect the change.

Q.53 DRFP Section L.8 (c), page 53. This paragraph states, "The Offeror shall have the proposed Program Manager and up to 3 of the Offeror's Key Personnel present the oral presentation (limit four (4) presenters)." In addition to the Program Manager, please clarify if the three additional presenters must be Key Personnel identified in the Offeror's proposal, or if these three additional presenters also may include corporate Key Personnel.

A.53 See response to Q.4.

Q.54 DRFP Attachment J.1 (a) 1 DSOW 6.0 Associated Facilities, page 9. During the Industry Day Tour of Building N223, emphasis was placed on personnel safety requirements including training and certification, prior to working in the Materials Laboratory environment. Please clarify if there are any associated facility specific safety requirements for the EAST, Ballistic Range Complex, and Arc-Jet Complex.

A.54 ESTRAD is not responsible for the operation of the EAST, Ballistic Range, or the Arc Jets. Each facility requires all visitors (including Contractors) to follow safety rules. Any safety requirements associated with labs will be available in the labs safety plans.

Q.55 Are you managing the safety training of employees or is it the contractor's responsibility?

A.55 The Contractor is responsible for ensuring the safety of its employees. Please see section 4.6 Health, Safety, and Environmental of the SOW.

Q.56 Other contractor interfaces were mentioned during presentation and tour. Is there an overlap between the two contracts (ATOM & ESTRAD)? Have you defined the responsibility between contractors working on different projects? Does the current STRAD Contract have some form of Service Level Agreement (s) (SLAs) currently in place?

A.56 There is no overlap between ATOM & ESTRAD. Task orders will be issued under ESTRAD, which will define the Government requirement. The current contract STRAD does not use SLAs, we issue task orders that define the Government requirement.

Q.57 DRFP Attachment J.1 (a) 1 DSOW 4.0 Contract Management Requirements and 5.0 Technical Requirements. During the Industry Day Presentation and Tour, emphasis was placed on all DSOW technical requirements with limited discussion of associated management requirements. Considering the technical capability and corporate memory exiting in the current STRAD work force coupled with the Government's anticipation of a high percentage capture of incumbent personnel, the new contractor primarily offers a Management Approach that creates the milieu for a productive, motivated, and creative workforce. Will the Government reconsider its Mission Suitability Subfactor Assigned Weights for Management Approach and Technical Approach?

A.57 The Government reviewed the request and has decided to keep the requirements of the draft RFP.

Q.58 DRFP Attachment J.1 (a) 1 DSOW 5.6 Thermal Protection Materials and Systems, page 7. During the Industry Day Presentation and Tour, it was mention on several instances of various TPM/TPS activities to enhance related Technology Readiness Level (TRL). Please elaborate on TRL specifics as related to the ESTRAD Contract.

A.58 The final SOW will elaborate on TRL specifics; please refer to the final SOW.

Q.59 DRFP Attachment J.1. (a) 1 DSOW 5.4 Nanotechnology, page 7. During the Industry Day Presentation and Tour, mention was made of the 3-D Printer initiative(s). Please elaborate on any related Task Order requirement(s) to further develop the 3-D Printing capability, under the ESTRAD Contract. Should it be addressed in our proposal?

A.59 During the performance of requirements various deliverables are done in media formats. One format may use a 3-D printer.

Q.60 DRFP Attachment J.A (a) 1 DSOW 4.9, Travel Management, Page 4. EDL Collaboration: Will this contract going be part of the collaboration between the different NASA centers? Is traveling to other centers as part of the analysis process?

A.60 Task orders will be issued under ESTRAD, which will define the Government requirements. As part of the requirement travel may be required to travel to conferences, field sites, universities, and other agencies, see Section 4.9 of the SOW.

Q.61 Will you be putting rates in the final RFP?

A.61 The Offeror is required to proposed direct labor rates, indirect rates; see Section L.9 (b) Cost Factor (Volume III).

Q.62 The government is accepting questions until September 9, and final RFP will be issued by September 15. Is this realistic?

A.62 Any changes in schedule will be posted on Federal Business Opportunities website.

Q.63 Does the funding level in the future look stable for the division?

A.63 NASA's budget various each year.

Q.64 Orals for Past Performance: Was there a reason for it? Is this done to expedite the selection process?

A.64 One of the HQs tenets is to improve the selection process by Streamlining.

Q.65 Table on Page 61: is the table a separate submission?

A.65 See response to Q.24.

Q.66 Table on Page 54: How much time is actually allocated? (There seem to be a disconnect on the time: 140 minutes or 120 minutes?)

A.66 The time allocated for oral presentations shall be no more than 140 minutes; the final RFP will reflect the change.

Q.67 Partnership in SOW and RFP: What do you mean by Partnering? What are you looking for?

A.67 Partnering means subcontracting or teaming arrangements made by the Prime contractor to perform the requirement.

Q.68 Reach Back: Are there any reach back intentions? Academia or Company?

A.68 The Government does not dictate how a contractor staffs this requirement.

Q.69 Is the government going to provide salary ranges for each position?

A.69 See response to Q.25.

Q.70 Sample Task: There is a notation of NPR 7120 Project Management Handbook: Has this been implemented in Code T?

A.70 NASA Procedure Requirement NPR 7120 is a NASA wide NPR, see section 4.6 of SOW.

Q.71 Is there a split between project management and R&D? What is the level of effort anticipated for each?

A.71 Please see section 4.0 Contract Management and section 5.0 technical requirement of the SOW. Also review the contract terms and conditions and requirements of the solicitation.

Q.72 Mission suitability involves orals. Are you intending to have orals?

A.72 Please review Section L and M regarding oral presentation for mission suitability.

Q.73 The Draft SOW deletes previous SOW section on Interns and Educational Outreach.: Did you mean to delete Intern & Educational outreach from the current RFP? Are you allowing us to have interns?

A.73 See response to Q.68.

Q.74 How would you like us to focus on the sample tasks? What do you want from the sample tasks?

A.74 See response to Q.37

Q.75 It is unclear whether slides *and* text will be required for the oral sections. Does NASA expect there to be only slides for the technical presentation with no backup material?

A.75 Portions of the Offeror proposal will be written and some oral. Please refer to section L and M of the solicitation Table in section L.7 will be revised to be more clear; the final RFP will reflect the change.

Q.76 We noticed that most students from ERC were coded in TS. Are the interns handled at the division level?

A.76 See response to Q.37

Q.77 Do you need to obtain your clearance (DD254=Secret clearance) during submission of proposal or can we get it later during Phase-in?

A.77 The Offeror is required to have a "Level of Secret" at time of award.

Q.78 How far back do you want us to provide us for the past performance section?

A.78 Please see L.9 (b) Past Performance (Volume II).

Q.79 What type of Configuration management system do you have?

A.79 Configuration management may vary depending on the requirement. The task order will define the requirement.

Q.80 What are the programs that you use to make the transfer smooth?

A.80 The responsibility of Phase-In is with the contractor.

Q.81 Do you want us to submit subject matter experts?

A.81 See response to Q.37

Q.82 Do you expect to have one point of contact for the overarching contract or a contact for each division?

A.82 See response to Q.37

Q.83 What are your expectations when you say on site work? What is the square footage of contractor work space?

A.83 See Section F.5 of the RFP with regards to performance on-site. The square footage of contractor work space depends on the requirements.

Q.84 Safety Training: Does that need to occur in the transition period? Is there a fee associated with the training?

A.84 See response to Q.55.

Q.85 Do you have plans for the future? New customers?

A.85 The task orders issued under ESTRAD will define the requirements.

Q.86 Secret Clearance: Will the government clarify PWS paragraphs that require a Secret Clearance?
A DD254 will be required to be in hand by the time of award.

A.86 See response to Q.77.

Q.87 Labor force: Is it the government's intent for offerors to propose 38.5 personnel? Is SME structure going to go away in the future?

A.87 If the SME structure is a proposed approach, the Offeror shall address in their proposal.

Q.88 Project Management: Will the government provide an expected level of effort to support project management activities for ESTRAD?

A.88 See response to Q.71.

Q.89 Orals: Does the government have any expectations for the oral presentations beyond what is listed in the Draft RFP?

A.89 Please see section M, which is how the Government will evaluate Offerors proposals.

Q.90 Who is required to present for orals? There were claims that the RFP states that Key Personnel must present.

A.90 See Section L.9 of the RFP.

Q.91 **RFP L.8.(g) – Page 54 The oral presentation of the Management Approach, Technical Approach, and Past Performance will be recorded by the Government** *According to the table in L.7.(a) on Page 53, there can be up to 20 slides in the Past Performance oral presentation. Note 2 to the table states that "These limits do not apply to past performance questionnaire responses nor the chart entitled PRIME AND MAJOR SUBCONTRACTS provided on Page 61." It is understood that the questionnaire responses will not be included in the Past Performance Volume, but the referenced chart will be included. So, the interpretation is that we will have an unlimited number of slides for the Past Performance Volume (20 + the charts), in addition to the 60 slides for the Management Approach, but a time limit for orals. Even ignoring the charts, there will be 80 slides to present in 120 minutes, meaning the average time per slide is 1.5 minutes, which is quite limiting.*

We would like to suggest that Past Performance not be included in the oral presentation.

A.91 The Government has reviewed your request and has decided to keep the Requirements of the Draft RFP. Also see response to Q.64.